SPECIAL ARTICLES

COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA IN CALIFORNIA IN 1934–1935

Since the publication of Special Bulletin No. 57 by the California State Department of Public Health in 1931 nothing further has been reported on coccidioidal granuloma. This report will serve to revive and bring the data up to date (July 1, 1936).

The general trend of the epidemiology of this disease remains the same as discussed in the Special Bulletin.

Four hundred and fifty cases with two hundred and twenty-four deaths were recorded to July 1, 1936. Table 1 is a tabulation of the cases and deaths by years:

TABLE 1.—*Distribution of Coccidioidal Granuloma in California Cases and Deaths by Years*

Year	*Cases*	*Deaths*
Prior to 1928	151	86
1928	36	10
1929	46	25
1930	22	11
1931	19	8
1932	19	9
1933	54	25
1934	49	29
1935	28	14
1936 to July 1	26	7
Totals	450	224

Geographically these cases are distributed according to Table 2. The concentration of cases still persists in central and southern California. Three hundred and one cases, or 66.8 per cent, of the four hundred and fifty cases recorded are from Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare, and Los Angeles counties.

The northern rural counties have never reported cases, and it would appear that the disease has certain geographic limits. Since the first large group of cases were reported (prior to 1928) from San Francisco as a medical diagnostic center, only eight cases have been recorded in nine years. Other cases which have been diagnosed in San Francisco have been transferred to the home address or to the most probable source of infection obtained from the detailed history.

A study of the cases according to age and sex (see Table 3) shows that males are the most often affected with 384, or 85 per cent, of the 450 cases occurring in this sex. Sixty-one cases, or 13.3 per cent, are recorded in females and five were of unknown sex. Three cases have been reported under one year of age, and seventeen cases (3.7 per cent) in the one to four age group. However, the majority fall in the higher age groups with a total of 275 cases, or 61 per cent, occurring between the ages of twenty-five and fifty-five years.

TABLE 2.—*Sex and Age*

Age	*Male*	*Female*	*Unknown*	*Total*
0- 1	1	2	....	3
1- 4	13	3	1	17
5- 9	10	4	....	14
10-14	5	2	....	7
15-19	17	4	....	21
20-24	45	11	....	56
25-34	129	15	....	144
35-44	80	7	....	87
45-54	40	4	....	44
55+	30	8	....	38
A.	13	1	....	14
Unknown	1	....	4	5
Totals	384	61	5	450

Table 4 is a summary of cases according to occupation and sex. The occupations were grouped under the general headings: soil, vegetation, animals, general labor (when no specific type was noted), laboratory infection, and miscellaneous. The latter group included professionals (students) commercial business, mechanical trades, building trades, and others. Two other groups were listed, *i. e.*, unknown occupations and no occupation. Under the heading vegetation was included housewives—since their work brought them into close contact with fruits and vegetables. Seventy-eight patients were found to have work pertaining to the soil; one hundred and one with fruits, vegetables, cotton and other vegetation; one hundred were general laborers; one hundred and sixteen cases were grouped under the miscellaneous heading; twenty-nine were of unknown occupation; and nine had no occupation.

Sixty-five and five-tenths per cent of the cases were found in the groups involving outside work or work involving soil, vegetations, animals, and general outdoor labor. The epidemiology theory that the disease is soil-borne, as expressed by the high percentage of male outdoor workers, has been proved correct since Stewart and Meyer isolated the fungus (Coccidioides immitis) from soil samples collected in Kern County.

TABLE 3.—*Occupation*

Type	*Male*	*Female*	*Unknown Sex*	*Total*
Soil (oil, mines)	78	0	0	78
Vegetation (housework)	64	37	0	101
Animals	16	0	0	16
General laborer	100	0	0	100
Laboratory	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous:				
Professions and school	21	6	0	27
Children	25	11	1	37
Commercial business	5	1	0	6
Mechanics	19	0	0	19
Building trades	12	0	0	12
Others	12	3	0	15
Unknown occupation	24	1	4	29
No occupation	7	2	0	9
Totals	384	61	5	450

The cases are tabulated in Table 4 according to nationality, with number and percentage given. Practically all races are affected and the per cents for each have remained quite constant since the first tabulation in 1931. There are, however, variations, *i. e.*, the foreign-born whites have decreased slightly, whereas the percentage of cases among Filipinos has doubled during the past five years. The explanation of this increase is not evident from the epidemiological histories. Occupation probably plays a part, as the majority of Filipinos in California are engaged in agricultural work in localities where the highest percentage of cases occurs.

It has been noted that when the medical profession becomes interested in a particular disease, then the morbidity reports increase. This undoubtedly has had an influence on the increase in the number of cases of coccidioidal granuloma reported.

Early diagnosis of pulmonary cases and differential diagnosis from tuberculosis by sputum examination have been important steps during the last few years.

TABLE 4.—*Nationality*

Nationality	*Number*	*Per Cent*
American (white)	135	30.00
Mexican	96	21.33
Filipino	67	14.90
Negro	61	13.60
Foreign born (white)	36	8.00
Japanese	9	2.00
Chinese	8	1.80
Portuguese	8	1.80
Hindu	4	.89
Indian	3	.66
East Indian	1	.22
Malayan	2	.44
Unknown	20	4.44
Totals	450	100.00

PRESIDENT'S PERPETUAL BRIDGE TROPHY: LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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During July, 1936, Dr. Harlan Shoemaker, then president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, appointed a committee, consisting of Doctors S. M. Alter, Charles E. Phillips, and E. Eric Larson, to organize a bridge tournament, to be held at intervals at the Association's headquarters during the remainder of the year. At the end of that time, appropriate prizes were to be given to the winning participants.

The sessions were held every two weeks for ten weeks. About sixty members played at the first session, most of whom continued throughout the whole period.